

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 MC-02 SAJ-01 /084 W

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P 221306Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2535

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2492

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT ZA RH

SUBJECT: CHONA UPDATES STATUS OF NKOMO-SMITH TALKS

REF: LUSAKA 2434

SUMMARY. PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S POLITICAL ADVISER MARK CHONA REFUSED TO SAY IN CONVERSATION WITH ME DEC 20 WHETHER HE OPTIMISTIC OR PESSIMISTIC OR EVEN WHETHER THERE IS PROGRESS IN NKOMO-SMITH TALKS ON NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. HIS DEPUTY AMB PETER KASANDA JUST RETURNED TO LUSAKA FROM SALISBURY FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AND HIS REPORT, CHONA SAID, GIVES HIM "HOPE". CHONA STILL CONFIDENT NEGOTIATED RATHER THAN MILITARY SETTLEMENT IS ONLY WAY OF MAKING SOVIET ARMED SUPPORT FOR NKOMO'S EX-ZANU FACTION OF ANC UNNECESSARY. END SUMMARY.

1. TRYING TO COAX CHONA INTO SOME APPRAISAL OF WHERE RHODESIAN TALKS STAND OR IF ANY PROGRESS MADE, I ASKED IF IT WAS BASICALLY A QUESTION OF NEGOTIATORS TRYING
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TO HIT UPON A CERTAIN NUMBER OF CABINET POSITIONS TO

REFLECT MAJORITY INTERESTS OVER A CERTAIN TIME FRAME. CHONA IMPLIED THIS WAS NOT RPT NOT CORE PROBLEM AT THIS TIME, THAT DRAFTING MUTUALLY-ACCEPTABLE CONSITUTION WAS MAIN FOCUS. BOTH SIDES HAD LOOKED FIRST AT 1969 CONSTITUTION, THEN AT 1965 CONSTITUTION, BUT EACH CONTAINED VERY CONTROVERSIAL CLAUSES. PARTICIPANTS NOW LOOKING AT 1961 CONSTITUTION WHICH COULD WELL BE ACCEPTABLE STARTING POINT. ZAMBIA ITSELF HOPES TO LOCATE A COPY AND BEGIN ITS RESEARCH. CHONA ASKED IF USG HAD COPY.

2. CHONA RECALLED HIS RECENT CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR BELOKOLOS (REFTEL) AND SAID PRES KAUNDA HAD BEEN ASKED BY SOVIETS IF ZAMBIANS HAD ANY OBJECTION TO THEIR SUPPLYING ARMS TO NKOMO. KAUNDA HAD TO REPLY THAT ZAMBIA DID NOT RPT NOT. PUZZLED, I ASKED WHY SUCH AN ANSWER; WAS IT BECAUSE ZAMBIA WANTED TO INDICATE IT HAD NO RPT NO AUTHORITY OVER NKOMO OR OVER AN INDEPENDENT, MAJORITY-RULED ZIMBABWE? CHONA REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY, ADDING ZAMBIA WOULD HOPE SOVIET ARMS FOR RHODESIA WOULD BECOME IRRELEVANT WITH PEACEFUL SOLUTION. I EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW SOVIETS MIGHT NOT STOP AT THAT IF THEY BENT ON INFLUENCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. CHONA SAID ZAMBIANS AGREE THAT IF RUSSIANS FAIL MILITARILY IN ANGOLA THEY WILL TRY TO GAIN FOOTHOLD THROUGH ARMS IN RHODESIA. CHONA SAID ZAMBIA DEDICATED TO A NEGOTIATED RATHER THAN MILITARY SOLUTION WHICH WOULD MAKE IT UNNECESSARY FOR NKOMO TO DEPEND ON SOVIET ARMS.

3. RECOMMENDATION: WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING FROM DEPT ANY LEGAL OR INR COMMENTARY ON RHODESIAN CONSTITUTIONS MENTIONED BY CHONA, ALSO A POUCHED COPY IF AVAILABLE OF 1961 CONSTITUTION REFERRED TO.
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